

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127691

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GUAYAQUIL FROM
QUITO JUNE 13:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR EC

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS ON NARCOTICS CONTROL WITH MINISTER
OF GOVERNMENT

REF: (A) QUITO 929; (B) QUITO 3792.

1. DURING COURSE OF CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH THE MINISTER
OF GOVERNMENT ADMIRAL POVEDA, JUNE 12, AMBASSADOR TOOK
OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM U.S. INTEREST IN ECUADOREAN EFFORTS
AT DRUG CONTROL BY EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH RECENTLY
INCREASED POLICE ACTIVITY IN THIS FIELD IN GUAYAQUIL. HE
ASKED THE MINISTER HOW HE VIEWED THE CURRENT ENFORCEMENT
SITUATION. THE MINISTER SAID THAT FORTHCOMING POLICE RE-
ORGANIZATION PLANS WOULD MAKE THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT MUCH
MORE EFFECTIVE.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED NEW NARCOTICS LAW RAISED
BY THE AMBASSADOR, POVEDA SAID THAT THE PLANS WERE TO AMEND
THE PRESENT LAW TO INCLUDE THE IMPORTANT NEW PROVISIONS OF
THE PROPOSED NEW LAW RATHER THAN PROMULGATE THE NEW LAW
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ITSELF. HE SAID THAT MANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NEW

LAW WERE ALREADY A PART OF THE OLD LAW AND THAT IT WAS FAR SIMPLER POLITICALLY FOR THIS GOVERNMENT TO AMEND A LAW PROMULGATED BY A FORMER GOVERNMENT THAN TO INSTITUTE A NEW ONE. HE HINTED THAT THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY AROSE FROM THE FACT THAT THE NEW LAW HAD BEEN DRAFTED LARGELY BY USAID TECHNICIANS.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF U.S.-GOE COLLABORATION IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POINTS THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SET UP A MEETING FOR JUST THIS PURPOSE. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD SUFFICIENT DOMESTIC RESOURCES TO FINANCE THE OVERALL POLICE PROGRAMS IN ECUADOR, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON INCREASING U.S. ASSISTANCE IN DRUG CONTROL. THE COLLABORATION HE SAID WAS GENERALLY GOOD AND HE HAD ONLY A FEW MINOR COMPLAINTS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE TRAINING THAT HIS NARCOTICS OFFICERS ARE RECEIVING IN THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

4. FINALLY, THE MINISTER SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE INCREASED ECUADOREAN EFFORT WOULD ELIMINATE THE DRUG PROBLEM IN ECUADOR BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

5. COMMENT: THE MINISTER'S PROPOSAL FOR A FUTURE MEETING IS WELCOME EVIDENCE OF HIGH LEVEL GOE INTEREST IN THIS PROBLE. UNFORTUNATELY, MOST OF THE OFFICERS TRAINED IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT IN THE U.S. HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO UNRELATED DUTIES. ONE AIM OF POLICE REORGANIZATION IS TO MINIMIZE THIS PROBLEM. THE MINISTER'S HOPES FOR FULLY CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC IN ECUADOR IN THE TIMEFRAME MENTIONED ARE COMMENDABLE BUT UNREALISTIC. BREWSTER UNQUOTE SISCO

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